

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 16 to read as below. The marked-up version of these amended claims appears on a separate sheet at the end of this paper, as required by the rules.

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1. (Four Times Amended) A biodegradable and bioactive composite material for surgical osteosynthesis applications comprising: i) at least one resorbable polymeric matrix component, ii) at least one resorbable polymeric reinforcing component as a large scale reinforcing element, wherein said polymeric reinforcing component is mixed with said matrix component, and iii) at least one bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component as a smaller scale reinforcing element mixed with said matrix component, said bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component being a bony ongrowth agent having coarse particles, wherein said composite material is ductile.

16. (Three Times Amended) A biodegradable and bioactive composite material for surgical osteosynthesis applications comprising: i) at least one resorbable polymeric matrix component, ii) at least one resorbable polymeric reinforcing component in fiber form, wherein said polymeric reinforcing component is mixed with said matrix component, and iii) at least one bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component as a bony ongrowth agent having coarse particles and mixed with said matrix component, the diameter of the resorbable polymeric reinforcing component being greater than the diameter or particle size of the bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component, said composite material further having increased mechanical strength and ductility.